



STANFORD UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305 • (415) 321-1200

STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Department of Genetics

January 22, 1969

Dr. Orville G. Brim, Jr.
Russell Sage Foundation
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

Dear Bert:

As you know, I have been deeply interested for a long time in how we can manage to assimilate the biological revolution. I find that I am spending an increasing part of my own time in reading, thinking, and writing about this matter. Up until now I have managed to evade the question of specific funding for this line of work, but it is coming increasingly difficult to cover it under the aegis of the kinds of specific research grants available to me. Furthermore, the very stringent retrenchment that we have been suffering the last year or two compounds the problem.

I do not have what I would regard as a well-focussed research program by the standards of my laboratory work. Nevertheless, I think I can make a useful contribution in this area, and to do so needs a modicum of support. What I have in mind would be an annual outlay to cover half the salary of an information assistant/secretary, which will come to \$4,000 per year, and another \$2,000 for books, journals, a little computer time for retrieval programs, and miscellaneous expenses. So I am in effect writing this as a brief application to the Russell Sage Foundation for a grant in support of "Studies on the Impact of New Biological Science" in the amount of \$6,000 per year for a period of three years.

This work, of course, overlap some of the responsibilities that I might undertake for Milton Katz's committee, but I am thinking more and more seriously that I can pursue my thoughts on this subject better if done independently, or at least within the framework of a group of my colleagues informally assembled in the Stanford area rather than on a national committee. I also serve on a number of other bodies, and in my teaching likewise make considerable use of the kind of information that I need this help to assemble and digest.

The weekly column that I write for the Washington Post often touches on these problems and imposes a kind of discipline to keep in regular continuous touch with them. I propose to write much more comprehensively about these same themes from time to time, and will of course acknowledge the support of the Foundation in such publications where appropriate.

BRIM

Dr. Orville G. Brim, Jr.

January 22, 1969
Page 2

This request is from one point of view an annoying "nickle and dime" matter, but it is no less embarrassing to have no specific support for it, which is what I write to you for at the present time.

I am becoming more and more convinced that the most effective approach to coping with the revolution is nothing more nor less than a reaffirmation of the rights of individual freedom and dignity that already underlie our national culture. New biological advances stress the need to reaffirm such rights, and to preserve our traditions of due process when social and individual interests come into conflict. The latter is the larger issue imposed on us by the growing complexity of modern life and indeed, the very extension of human rights to large numbers of people, quite apart from biological progress.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics